



## **Clean Energy Future Committee**

Date: September 22, 2023

Time: 8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendance:**

- Members Remote: Aimee Graeber, Amos Meeks, David Morgan, James DiTullio, Marc Breslow (joined shortly before 9am), Nellie Aikenhead, Pasi Miettinen, Shelly Dein
- Members in Person: John Alessi, Ryan Katofsky (as Chair), Talia Fox, Jim Feeney (8:15 – 8:30am)
- Members Absent: Eric Helmuth
- Also attending: Brucie Moulton

R. Katofsky convened the meeting at 8:15 am.

#### **1. Virtual Meeting Reminders**

- If there is a technical failure, we will try to relaunch the meeting three times.
- If we are unable to relaunch and there are more than 20 minutes left in the meeting, the CEFC will reconvene the following Friday.
- If there are fewer than 20 minutes left, the CEFC will carry the remaining agenda items forward to the next meeting.

#### **2. Review and Approve 8/25/2023 Meeting Minutes**

- CEFC reviewed the draft minutes from the August 25, 2023. S. Dein moved to approve, D. Morgan seconded. CEFC approved with a show of hands; S. Dein abstained due to absence.
- Welcome to Jim Feeney, Arlington's new Town Manager. J. Feeney thanked CEFC for work and pledged to advance electrification, including the fleet. Jim hopes to start meeting with T. Fox more regularly and to dive a little deeper into the work of the CEFC.

#### **3. Fossil Fuel Free (FFF) Bylaw Updates**

- Brief discussion of gas stove policy: CEFC voted in August to remove the blanket exemption for gas cooking in the FFF Bylaw. In the updated draft bylaw, gas cooking is banned, with an option for obtaining a waiver if an exception is needed. This bylaw only applies to "major" renovation projects (defined as projects where more than 50% of the conditioned floor area or more than 1,000 sq ft in total are being altered) and to new construction. It does not apply to smaller projects such as a kitchen remodel.

- The bylaw will apply to major renovations of commercial kitchens or other commercial spaces if more than 50% of the conditioned floor area or more than 20,000 sq ft of space is being altered.
- Arlington has submitted an official application for the FFF pilot; all nine municipal applications can be viewed on the MA DOER website. West Tisbury withdrew so there is currently one opening.
- To participate, the Town must still pass the FFF bylaw, which will be Warrant Article #14. The Article has been filed, there is a hearing on September 27th with selectboard, starting at 7:15pm. We also need to pass the state-mandated MBTA communities bylaw at Special Town Meeting (STM) which will start October 14th.
- This is a great time to get in touch with Town Meeting members to voice support for both the FFF Bylaw and the MBTA Communities Act.
- Town meeting already passed the FFF Bylaw; the upcoming Article 14 will simply be a re-adoption with a few tweaks, to bring the language into alignment with the state model.

#### 4. MBTA Communities Bylaw

- T. Fox has submitted the letter supporting the MBTA Communities Act to ARB since the last CEFC meeting; CEFC may want to consider another letter to Town Meeting at some point.

#### 5. Sustainability

##### Arlington Community Choice Electricity (ACE) update

- Every 2 to 3 years the Town must update its contract. Last time, ACE came in below the price for Eversource basic service, and now we are very slightly higher than Eversource basic services (since Eversource basic service changes every 6 months and went down for the summer season)
- Last time we renewed the contract, we wanted to drop our 50% “opt up” product because it wasn’t that different than the default product of 30%. We also were buying an extra 100% of Class I RECs above the baseline 30%, and we wanted to adjust that so we truly were buying 100%. We could not do either because of the way the DPU was doing things at the time.
- Now there is pending legislation that would change the way DPU reviews and approves these products, that would make it easier for individual communities to make changes to the program, and that would expedite the review process. Arlington is engaged with Good Energy, our broker, actively participating in this legislative process, in order to help make changes.
- We want to move to a 100% renewable being our default. We currently have a 30% default and an average of about 50% Class I RECs.
- The CEFC discussed whether the CEFC should endorse or cosign the letter when the town submits the testimony to the state. P. Miettinen made a motion that the CEFC would be involved in endorsing the letter in some fashion, which would not include individual signatures, since E. Helmuth and J. DiTullio cannot sign due to their state house jobs. S. Dein seconded. Motion passed. J. DiTullio did not participate in the motion or vote. A. Garber abstained as she is a state employee.

Town Day

- Electrify Arlington will have a table. ACE will have a table. Home Works Energy will have its own table.
- There will be a ribbon cutting in the morning for the electric busses, which are now driving around town marked with a blue electric bus logo. The chargers are up and running as well. The busses are parked in the Ottoson lot. It will be a challenge to find a place to park the remainder of the fleet once it becomes electrified.
- J. Alessi will be presenting the Mass Ave and Appleton Safety and Accessibility project to the Selectboard next week and is expecting a close vote. The project was started in 2020 after fatal accident at the intersection and has evolved into a corridor project stretching from Dunkin Donuts on Mass Ave up to Quinn Rd. The project includes separated bicycle facilities at sidewalk grade and better crossing for students, it makes walking safer, and includes components to enhance transit. The proposal includes a reduction of parking spaces from 81 to 42 within the corridor, which has generated controversy. The CEFC discussed submitting a letter of support for the plan, but the decided against it due in part to not feeling fully informed.

**6. Next Meeting Date October 27, 2023. November meeting rescheduled to the 17<sup>th</sup> due to Thanksgiving**

- T. Fox moved to end the meeting and J. Alessi seconded. Unanimous vote by show of hands.

Submitted by Nellie Aikenhead